

## Always Room at the Top

AMERICA, the land of opportunity! Once this was our proudest boast. Why not again?

Noting already a shortage of unskilled labor, which will become acute when our industry fully revives, Judge Gary says:

Every impediment should be placed before the immigrant who cannot make a contribution toward the growth of the Nation.

But men and women who qualify mentally, morally and physically for entry into this country should not be debarred.

These people have something definite to offer the country—their strength and their allegiance.

The country has something definite to offer them—economic freedom and citizenship.

Each needs the other for mutual benefit.

Whatever self-interest colors Judge Gary's view, the foregoing is true.

Few aliens, however humble their start, stay long on the ladder's bottom rung. If not they, their children rise from the unskilled to the skilled and make their way among our best.

What American who disdains our newest arrivals can cite a prouder ancestral beginning in the New World?

The criticism that most helps to solve the immigration problem is not disdainful, but appreciative of the human values in the inflowing tide and earnestly co-operative to enhance them.

## Twelve Hours in Steel Mills

MR. HARDING has steel chiefs to dinner and urges them to cut out the twelve-hour day in the steel industry.

Mr. Gary appoints a committee to investigate the possibility of the change, the chiefs having agreed that the innovation is desirable "if and when practicable."

It will be nice if Mr. Gary and the others can find it "practicable" to reduce below twelve hours the deadly toil of men at the steel furnaces. It has not proved "practicable" up to this time in spite of strikes and repeated exposure of the severe conditions under which these men work.

It is solely up to Mr. Gary and his conferees. They have prevented the formation of labor organizations in the steel industry, so the men cannot fight for themselves.

The Federal Government cannot help them, for successive Supreme Court decisions—the latest the one annulling the Federal Child Labor Law—have declared that the States alone can regulate working conditions in industry.

The States cannot help in reducing the twelve-hour shift in the steel business, for the Supreme Court has declared State laws limiting the hours of men's work to be unconstitutional, because such laws interfere with a man's free right of contract. His right to contract to burn up his manhood in a few years of intensive work because he can get employment on no other terms! A precious right! It is like the precious right of the children of Alabama to work eleven hours per day in cotton mills, a right restored to them by the Supreme Court a few days ago.

The Child Labor Law annulment and the twelve-hour incident, both occurring within a week, remind us that we need a constitutional amendment empowering the Federal Congress to pass protective laws for industrial workers, young and old.

## Au Revoir, Lady Astor!

THE beautiful and brilliant, but not wholly diplomatic, Lady Astor has returned to England from her propagandist tour of America.

Her propaganda was in support of the League of Nations. Those of us who believe that America should be free from foreign entanglements earnestly hope that England will send more propagandists like Lady Astor.

She attacked the Grand Army of the Republic, those venerated men now old and few.

Lady Astor also attacked the veterans of the late great war, those splendid boys of ours who sacrificed so much not only for their own country, but to save the allies, and particularly to answer the shrieks for help of that "Dear England" for which our expatriates have so deep a devotion.

Lady Astor also attacked the Catholic Church and our citizens who sympathize with Ireland and the Jews, and the Congress of the United States and not an inconsiderable portion of the press, of which she disapproves, but for which she writes for pay.

On the whole, Lady Astor would have offended most of the population, had it not been that her charm and her innocence and her sex freed her from any resentment from our courteous and considerate people.

However, Lady Astor did strongly appeal to the snobs. And the number and importance of snobs in a democracy must not be understated.

## On Getting a Hearing.

THE man with a grievance is a nuisance. The man with a plan is welcome.

Grievances annoy other people, but fail to interest them. The tone of voice has a faint wail in it. Some public reformers make the same mistake as the man with a grievance. The faults they point out are worth noting. The men they snipe are fair game. The failure of these earnest critics lies in the unfailing gloom they carry and spread.

They leave all the good tunes to the sinners. They get no fun out of their fights.

We do not need a prophet to tell us that some of the conditions of life are sour and hard.

Human affairs are more of a quick lunch than a banquet.

This earth is an imperfect sphere, slightly flattened at the poles. And in celestial terms it is a third-rate planet, at best.

But we are on it and cannot get off it. We are in it and cannot get out of it.

In suggesting amendments to the common lot, there is needed a genial and hearty note.

Best of all, let the reformers bring a plan instead of a grievance.

## A Thrill of Peace.

TO those who are inclined to be cynical about Genoa, because of an altogether natural impatience and eagerness for the speedy and complete recovery of the poor, sick world, the closing words of Lloyd George should bring some balm:

A thrill of peace has gone through the veins of Europe, and you are not going to get any nation lifting up her hand against another nation again.

Believe me, peace is recovering her gentle sway over the hearts of men and in this conference, by this pact we have adopted today, we have paid homage to her sceptre.

This is not the achievement of the millenium, but it is one step and one moment nearer to a world wise enough to live together in peace and amity.

## NEEDED ONCE, BUT NOW IN NEED

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## NATURE AT HER BEST



By S. E. KISER.  
NOW Nature's at her loveliest. In every glen and every glade The sweet wild blossoms do their best To let their beauty be displayed; The sprouts are coming up to view The daily wonders that unfold; The woods are bright with every hue, And all the world seems made anew, So I am told.

THE lambs are skipping on the slopes, The slim colts elevate their heels; The little pigs, with eager hopes, And packed in layers get their meals; The mother hen clucks to the chicks That neath her drooping wings are warmed; The boys are swimming in the "cricks," And Nature's doing her best licks, So I'm informed.

THE wizardry of spring is shown In every field and pasture lot; Sweet fragrance constantly is blown From every rural beauty spot; By every winding, tuneful brook The nicely fringed ferns appear; Some wonder graces every nook Where one may care to pause and look, Or so I hear.

THIS is the time for man to turn From narrow streets and selfish aims To look at Nature's work, and learn How she refashions and reclaims; As for myself, I cannot spend My moments gazing at a view Where wonders open without end, But I can highly recommend That stuff to you.



THE newspapers have made much of the attempt of certain Kentucky legislators to enact a law forbidding the teaching of evolution in the public schools of that State. They noted also that a certain religious enthusiast out in Illinois was contending for the flat earth at the same time that the Kentucky legislators were endeavoring to kill Darwinism. The legislative pronouncements of a democracy must, in the nature of the case, conform more or less to the intellectual status of the people, and a certain individual does not like to think that his ancestors were simians. It may seem strange that legislative attempts to suppress the teaching of science may succeed in the near future. But it is worth while to recall that the ancient Greeks and the Romans knew the earth to be round and even measured it; had correct notions as to the sun and moon, and elaborated a doctrine of evolution as expounded, for example, in the famous poem of Lucretius. As you know, the knowledge was lost for centuries. Something like two thousand years after the age of Pericles, Galileo was forced to keep quiet about his belief in a moving globe, and Copernicus expounded the true relations of sun and earth only with discretion. Almost two thousand years after Lucretius there came—the Kentucky legislator. In the light of history, who shall say that may not be supreme one hundred years (let alone two thousand years) after Darwin, and the teachings of the other nineteenth century scientists and philosophers?

## FIRST CLASS GUNNERS

By "BUGS" BAER.

NEW YORK, May 25. FERRY BOAT schedules aren't only thing that New York and New Jersey agree on.

BOTH original States are crocheting legislation to put dampers on guns and other family jewelry. We call 'em original States because they won their freedom by shooting and are still keeping it up.

SO much shooting going on recently that Congress is thinking of putting tax on it.

MOST New York gunnivers do their early cannon shopping in Jersey. Jersey's light artillery candidates grab their lead atomizers in Manhattan.

THIS murderous reciprocity has been going on for years.

OUR bad boy scouts step over to sister-in-law State and shoot skeeter citizens curly. Then expeditionary force of Jersey morons tour over to New York and establish target practice on every metropolitan vest button in sight.

THERE are seven or eight crops of bullets every night. Man who walks down dark street in either State takes his life in his hands and his future in his shoes.

SAME thing is boiling over in Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Toledo, Los Angeles and other excursion meccas.

THERE are more fountain pens sold than revolvers. Only difference is that guns work.

BULLET habit is not dangerous if you don't absorb more than two or three per night. Getting so that harmless citizens are swallowing them like quinine pills.

YEGGS don't order you to toss your lunch shovels into air now. They shoot first and allow enablers to arrange your hands.

THEY used to be content with tattooing educational mottoes on your skull with leadpipe and jackblacks. But now, they're getting brutal.

IF we can arrange with Jersey to keep its neighbor's children at home, New York can manage its own mischievous trigger athletes.

AT present rate, it won't be long before both States will be shelling one another with Skodas.

The Report Discourteous. Wife—In the battle of tongues, woman can hold her own. Husband—Perhpas, but she never does.

It was a brave landlord who ate that complimentary dinner tendered him by his tenants without first having it analyzed by a chemist.

## Ye TOWNE GOSSIP

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By K. C. B.

FOR MONTHS and months. I'VE BEEN so fed up ON PEGGY Joyce. THAT EVERY day. WHEN I sit down. TO WRITE these lines. SHE COMES to mind. AND THEN I search. FOR SOME excuse. TO WRITE of her. BUT IT never comes. AND IT worries me so. THAT HERE and now. I'M GOING to say. I WISH they'd do something. WITH PEGGY Joyce. AND TAKE her away. WHERE THERE is no cable. OR TELEGRAPH wire. OR RADIO. FOR I'M very sure. THAT THE most of us. DON'T CARE a hang. WHAT PEGGY does. AND I'M very sure. THAT THE most of us. DON'T BELIEVE the half. THEY SAY of her.

AND FOR myself. I AM very sure. THAT THERE are times. WHEN MY sympathy. GOES OUT to her. FOR I know very well. SHE CAN'T be as bad. AS THEY say she is. AND SO I'm sorry. FOR PEGGY Joyce. IN SPITE of the fact. IT'S HER own fault. THEY PICK on her. BUT NEVERTHELESS. I'M TIRED of her. AND IT'S getting so. SHE SPOILS my breakfast. WHEN IN some new pose. I GAZE on her. AND I'D like to ask. ALL THE editors. TO LEAVE her alone. AND FORGET about her. AND LET her go back. TO CLEOPATRA. FOR CLEO'S dead. AND HER mother's dead. AND NO one cares. WHAT THEY say of her.



I THANK you.

## CAN THIS BE BLAMED ON THE WAR?

We are told that in certain cities lipsticks and rouge are being used by "young men." The quotes are ours.

WHAT COSTS NOTHING IS POORLY PRIZED.

If men had to pay for being good there would always be a line waiting at the ticket office.

THEIR OWN FAULT. Rules are made to be obeyed by those who foolishly neglect to become rulers.

## Washington Leads In Building Activities

By BILL PRICE.

We've had a few doleful prophecies as to what the Ball rent act, if extended, would do in curtailing building activities in the District. The law has been extended, and yet building in the National Capital is going on at a rate more rapid than in any other city the size of Washington in the United States. Official figures substantiate this. Only eight cities in the entire country took out as many building permits in April as did Washington, and the valuation of the local permits was 50 per cent greater than for the same month one year ago.

Building permits are being taken out at an astonishing rate right now, and any Washingtonian who wants to become filled with cheer should get in an automobile and take a look at the new buildings going up, particularly in northwestern suburban sections.

The simple truth is that the Ball law is not going to check the forward movement of the District one whit. Intelligent builders understand the situation too well to be frightened from plans for the future. They do not contemplate that the new Commission will adopt policies that will hamper the future growth of Washington. In appointing the members of the Commission President HARDING will be properly advised, and he will, we are sure, select members who are broad-gauged and far-seeing.

The new Commission will have golden opportunities to devote time to policies that will encourage building in the District, particularly the erection of five and six-room cottages and houses that will be inviting to young people, as investment properties or to rent.

Conditions in Washington are swiftly becoming normal. The Ball act was the outcome of unprecedented congestion, due to the war. Thousands of people were brought here by the Government for war activities. The demand for houses, apartments, rooms, far exceeded the supply. Rent hogs and profiteers—both landlords and sub-tenants—gouged right and left. The law was a war emergency. The departure from Washington of thousands of these war workers is bringing legitimate supply and demand into the foreground.

Wide-awake, enterprising builders and real estate operators who never lose confidence in Washington's splendid future have at least two elements, doubtless many more, that will insure that their buildings will be promptly sold out or profitably occupied by rental. There are those Washingtonians who have submitted to gouging rental prices until the time should come for them to buy homes. That time is here, and thousands are today wisely looking around to make investments. Erection of small houses ought to prove profitable, in view of the demand for these. It is going to be a good many months before there will be enough overbuilding to cause houses to be thrown on the market for rental at unreasonably low prices.

The other element that will absorb new homes quite rapidly is the long waiting list of newcomers we may expect with returning normalcy in housing. Washington's growth of population will be mainly due to American citizens living elsewhere who regard this city as the ideal one of the nation in which to own homes and rear families. Many of them are wealthy, others are well-to-do. Housing conditions here have not heretofore been inviting to them. The very wealthy could buy and did buy homes here at whatever prices were asked, but thousands of prospective residents of the National Capital, now domiciled elsewhere, refrained from purchasing homes here while speculative prices prevailed. This is the moment for them to turn their heads this way. They can now buy at prices that have the "water" removed. There will never be a better time than the present.

The exercise of common sense and judgment by the new Rent Commission will be of inestimable value in adjusting matters for a return to supply and demand. The new law is regarded by fair real estate dealers as removing some of the injustices which tenants were enabled to perpetrate on honest landlords under the old law, but at the same time preserving and protecting the rights of square tenants who did not desire to take strangle-hold on their landlords.

We will all be glad to see the warfare between tenants and landlords ended. It has been a bitter, ruinous struggle that did the great city of Washington much harm. It developed the meanest traits in humanity. The money pirate, with no other thought than that of profiteering to the utmost on the necessities of his fellow men, had his day, and he left a black and foul trail behind.

The retaliating tenant, judging all landlords by the acts of a few, did things which he should regret, taking every possible advantage, whether he acted justly or not. In the main, though, the law protected the defenseless against the meanest sort of aggressions and outright robbery.

In another year we expect to see the Rent Commission a practically idle body, no longer necessary. The affairs of tenants and landlords will be adjusted under pre-war business conditions, and the animosities and ill-feeling of war days will have passed away.